

**SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO REDUCTION OF BYCATCH
OF SEA TURTLES IN LONGLINE FISHERIES** (updated June 22, 2004)

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	LOCATION OF ACTIVITY - COUNTRY AND OCEAN (IF APPLICABLE)	LEAD FMC	CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (NAME ONLY)
A. Technology Transfer (Training and Outreach)			
A.1 A Workshop was held in conjunction with the Sea Turtle Symposium in San Jose, Costa Rica on February 28, 2004. Focus was on providing information on safe release to participants from nations with longline fleets.	Potential to reach multiple longlining nations	SEFSC	John Mitchell Charlie Bergman
A.2 A workshop was held in Panama City, FL during March 2004 to provide instruction to domestic vessels in the Gulf on the use of de-hookers and line cutters.	U.S. Gulf	SEFSC	John Watson
A.3 Laminated cards with sea turtle ID and handling guidelines and the safe handling video developed by the SEFSC are being provided to numerous countries as requested.	Pacific Atlantic	SEFSC PIFSC	Sheryan Epperly Yonat Swimmer
A.4 Staff will be following up on requests for technical information and materials that have been received from Mexico ¹ , Israel, and Australia.	Pacific Atlantic	SEFSC PIFSC	All involved staff

¹Feb. 24, 2004 email inquiry from Mexico, Maria Ruiz Slater, State Government Michoacan; request assistance in duplicating gear modification experiments

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A.5 SEFSC staff conducted longline mitigation training and workshops in Peru, June 1-12, 2004 in cooperation with IATTC (Martin Hall).	Peru	SEFSC	Charlie Bergmann
A.6 As a follow up to the workshop held at the Sea Turtle Symposium in Costa Rica, a workshop will be held with Costa Rican fishers in July 2004 on the use of dehookers, safe handling and release techniques.	Costa Rica	SEFSC	Charlie Bergmann
A.7 As a follow up to the workshop held at the Sea Turtle Symposium in Costa Rica, dehookers are being tested on Uruguayan vessels. In response to a March 22 email from Martin Laporta (Uruguayan fisheries observer), a Careful Handling and Release Kit has been provided for field testing.	Uruguay fleet	SEFSC	John Watson
A.8 In August 2004 a workshop will be held in Panama on the use of dehookers, safe handling and release techniques.	Panama	SEFSC	Charlie Bergmann
A. 9 In August 2004 a workshop will be held in Panama on the use of dehookers, safe handling and release techniques.	Guatemala	SEFSC	Charlie Bergmann
A.10 In October 2004 SWFSC staff will follow up on a training workshop held in 2003 in cooperation with IMARPE for fisheries observers by working with Peruvian researchers to initiate circle hook implementation and experiments in the artisanal mahi and shark fisheries.	Peru	SWFSC	Peter Dutton

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A.11 The PIFSC has been involved in training Korean and Japanese representatives to train their own fisheries observers in protocols utilized by NMFS observers.	Korean and Japanese fleets	PIRO	Charles Karnella
A.12 The PIRO is following up on requests for safe handling workshops from the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, and the Marshall Islands.	FSM, PNG, Marshall Islands	PIRO	Charles Karnella
B. Gear Experiments (Field)			
B.1 NMFS, in collaboration with WWF & IATTC, is providing hooks and technical assistance to Ecuador for the testing of 15-16o circle hooks in the mahi mahi fishery and 18o, non offset circle hooks in the tuna fishery. Work is scheduled to begin in March 2004.	Ecuador	SEFSC PIFSC	John Watson Chris Boggs
B.2 1 Caribbean and 4 Gulf vessels will be testing an 18o, non offset circle hook vs the 16o circle hook typically used in the tuna fishery, with standard squid/herring/sardine bait. One vessel is currently working and the others will begin work in March.	Gulf/Caribbean	SEFSC	John Watson
B.3 PIFSC staff will work cooperatively with the NGO PRETOMA to test 16o circle hooks in the Costa Rican tuna longline fishery.	Costa Rica	PIFSC	Yonat Swimmer
B.4 PIFSC assisted with experimental design for blue dyed bait in the shallow water mahi mahi fishery in Costa Rica. Initial testing took place in Nov. 2003.	Costa Rica	PIFSC	Chris Boggs

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B.5 Over the past 2 ½ years satellite tags have been provided to Costa Rican longline observers to investigate post-hooking survival. These studies are being phased out.	Costa Rica	PIFSC	Yonat Swimmer
B.6 In 2003 circle hooks were provided to approx. 10 swordfish vessels. An 18o circle hook with 10 degree offset will be tested this year.	Chile	SWRO SWC	Peter Dutton
B.7 In summer of 2004 the SEFSC will provide circle hooks with for experiments that will be conducted by Uruguayan longliners. Hook size and offset TBD.	Uruguay	SEFSC	Charlie Bergmann
B.8 In the fall of 2004 University of Florida researchers (Alan Bolten) will undertake testing of an 18o 10 degree offset circle hook baited with squid versus an 18o circle hook with no offset in the Azorean swordfish longline fishery.	Azores	PIFSC	Chris Boggs
C. Possible Future Gear Experiments			
C.1 PIFSC staff will not be conducting research in the proposed shallow set fishery in HI. Depending on funding and industry participation, gear research may shift to the tuna fishery.	HI	PIFSC	Chris Boggs
C.2 PIFSC staff have been consulting with WESPAC and Japan on the initial planning stages of a cooperative research design to test the efficiency of circle hooks in the Japanese tuna fishery.	Pacific	PIFSC	Chris Boggs
C.3 PIFSC is actively continuing to seek longline platforms throughout Asia for the deployment of archival tags.	Pacific	PIFSC	Chris Boggs

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C.4	PIFSC is providing 180 circle hooks for upcoming experiments by one research vessel in the Brazilian swordfish fishery.	Brazil	PIFSC	Yonat Swimmer
C.5	Guatemala has expressed an interest in experimenting with circle hooks in their swordfish fishery. This discussion was continued at the Sea Turtle Symposium in Costa Rica in February 2004.	Guatemala	PIFSC	Chris Boggs
D. Gear Experiments (Laboratory)				
D.1	Continued hook size experiments compared to turtle size will start in March 2004 with headstarted turtles in Galveston. PIFSC is providing funds	Galveston, TX	SEFSC PIFSC	Sheryan Epperly Chris Boggs
D.2	Physiology and behavior experiments (olfactory and visual cues, etc.) are ongoing at PIFSC. A review meeting to summarize results to date will be held at PIFSC in winter 2004.	HI and various affiliated research institutions	PIFSC	Yonat Swimmer
D.3	Odor/repellant studies are being conducted with captive and semi-wild turtles that are also monitored for hook expulsion and post-hooking health over time.	Brazil	PIFSC	Yonat Swimmer
E. Bi- and Multi-Lateral Efforts				

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E.1 Research results from the NED experiments were presented at the IATTC Bycatch Working Group January 2004 Kobe, Japan. The Group examined information on status of sea turtles; identified short and long-term conservation measures; and recommended research areas to address sea turtle interactions in fisheries	Member Countries: Costa Rica, Japan, Spain, Ecuador, Mexico, United States, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Vanuatu, France, Panama, Venezuela, Guatemala, Peru	SEFSC PIFSC SWR	John Watson Tina Fahy
E.2 The March 2004 Bilateral with Mexico provided an opportunity to follow up on their request for longline technical assistance.	Mexico	SF/HQ	Dean Swanson
E.3 NMFS staff involved in longline bycatch research participated in the 2 nd WPRFMC Western Pacific Sea Turtle Cooperative Research and Management Workshop held in Honolulu, HI May 17-21.	Pacific	PIFSC, PIRO, SWFSC SWRO	Chris Boggs
E.4 Research results from the NED and Pacific longline gear experiments were presented at the World Fishery Congress, May 2-6, Vancouver, BC, Canada	Global	PIFSC SEFSC	Yonat Swimmer John Watson
E.5 An MOU has been developed between the SEFSC and IMARPE (Peru) to collaborate on sea turtle/fisheries research. Final approval and signature are pending as of June 2004.	Peru	SWFSC	Peter Dutton

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E.6 In June, 2004 the PIFSC hosted a representative of the Pacific Fisheries Section of the Deep Sea Fisheries Division of the Taiwanese Fisheries Agency. He participated in a WPFMC sea turtle workshop and a fisheries observer workshop held at the PIRO.	Taiwan	PIFSC	Yonat Swimmer
E.7 NMFS staff gave a presentation promoting cooperative research and the use of circle hooks at a Symposium on Bycatch Reduction hosted by NFRDI in Korea, June 7-11, 2004.	Pacific	PIFSC	Chris Boggs
E.8 The Fisheries Bilateral with Chile in July, 2004 will provide a forum to call attention to the cooperative circle hook research that is underway and to discuss possible expansion of that program.	Chile	SF/HQ	Dean Swanson
E.9 ISC (Interim Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific) has agreed to establish a working group to address sea turtle bycatch issues.	Member States: Canada, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea, Mexico, People's Republic China, United States	SF/HQ PIFSC	Dean Swanson Chris Boggs
E.10 FAO Technical Consultation on the issue of sea turtle interactions with fishing gear will be held November 29 - December 3, 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand. Japan has pledged financial support for this meeting, and NMFS provided \$100,000.	Global	SF/HQ	Dean Swanson

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E.11 The 4 th International Fisheries Observer Conference will be held Nov 8-11, 2004 in Sydney, Australia. A session will be held on standardizing the collection of longline observer data and protocols.	Global	ST/HQ	Therese Conant
E.12 NMFS staff will give a presentation promoting cooperative research and the use of circle hooks at a Symposium on Bycatch Reduction hosted by NFRDI in Korea, June 7-11, 2004.	Pacific	PIFSC	Chris Boggs
F. Non U.S. Activities			
F.1 Workshops on mitigation research, de-hooking, line cutting, handling techniques and data collection have been conducted with 41 fishers in Queensland and Western Australia. More workshops are planned. 13 ARC de-hooking and line cutting kits have been distributed. A handling video is under development.	Queensland and Western Australia, Australia	n/a	Carolyn Robins
F.2 Workshops with fishers on handling techniques and the use of circle hooks are planned for July 2004.	Columbia	n/a	Martin Hall with WWF Columbia